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TO:

Andy Korseak VE3FZK/W6
504 Lakemead Way
Redwood City CA 94062

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PAARA

Graphs



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RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

 PAARagraphs is the official organ of the PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO
 ASSOCIATION and the MENLO PARK CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO CLUB

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PAARagraphs STAFF

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

PRODUCTION

PRINTING

at

MAILING

COVER ARTIST

G/OD Best Copy Service,
 993 El Camino Rl., Menlo Park.
 W6AIN Ed Fairbanks
 L/OLY Sue Lindner

NEAREST CORNER: Dusty, K6MPN, reports that almost enough volunteers are at hand to take care of the Redwood City 4th of July parade. 2-meter gear is to be used, probably on 146.25 MHz. This annual event is interesting. Communications between the Parade Marshal and the announcers' booths along the route keep everyone up-to-date on which floats failed to make the grade or who-got-in-front-of-whom. Who wants to be told that a drum and bugle corps is passing when they can see it is a troop of horses? Ma Bell gave up the communications because radio has done so well for the past 18 years. Experience dictates headphones are desirable. They're not needed all the time but some of the bands play loud, if not good. Assemble at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the corner of Bruster and Arguello in Redwood City—get the best seat along the route. Call Dusty at 368 8156 to see if you can help.

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PROGRAM CORNER: Regular Meeting, Friday, July 7, 1978, 7:30 p.m. Menlo Park Recreation Center, Room 15. Refreshments, eyeball QSO's and a raffle of goodies.

THE PROGRAM: Clay Sherrod, WB6LQU or K5OSQ, figured out a reasonably good way to replace base insulators in vertical antennas. He'd like to share his experience and expertise with the club.

VERTICAL ANTENNA BASE INSULATOR REPLACEMENT

Good color slides and a chalk talk should leave everything perfectly clear—and those with verticals realizing they don't have much of a problem at all, if you know what you're doing.

ALSO—during coffee break, Glenn Cohen will demonstrate a programmable Bearcat Scanner suitable for aircraft, amateur, police and fire and marine frequencies. Many, many channels can be monitored. For those who like the Bearcat Scanner, this is something extra.

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BOARD CORNER: The board of Directors will hold a meeting Wednesday, July 12, in the much inspected, often maligned, enduring-through-neglect, trailer located just inside the guard gate at SRI International at the Laurel Street entrance off Ravenswood. No one knows what will transpire. The time? A daylight 7:30 p.m.

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FUTURE CORNER: PAARA Auction and Flea Market. Oct. 7, 1978, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AMPEX cafeteria. Gather your old gonk together—if you don't have any, there are flea markets between now and then. Stock Up. Clean out your garage. Make someone happy with something you'll be happy to get rid of.

! ! !

THE PHANTOM of the east coast made his appearance on the West Coast during the early morning hours of Field Day much to the delight of all. Rick, WA6NCX, took the spotlight again following his publication in CQ Magazine for June of an article on Erv's, W6YPM, phone patch. Orders for transformers are flooding Erv's agent, who was found by Gerry, W6NIR. Hardly outstanding photographs by Bob, W6BFH, gave all home builders a chance to do it prettier than the author's example.

A GOOD TEAM effort. The article budded in August, 1977 PAARagraphs under the editorship of Terry, N6RY, with schematics first printed by Ed, W6AIN, and later by Bill, WA6OFN. There must have been more who helped.

YOU CAN GET the transformers at the July meeting from Bill, WA6IML, for less than Erv's agent charges.

MORE GOOD CONSTRUCTION articles using old surplus gonk are needed if Rick is to continue the perpetual student

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PUBLIC RELATIONS CORNER: Rick Ferranti, WA6NCX, has a change of address for the summer to: 1234 Santa Cruz Av., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

NEW MEMBERS: None. How Come?

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FIELD DAY CORNER: Your editor carefully made a list of participants in Field Day activities and had it tucked away in his pocket. It fell out while picking up antenna parts Sunday afternoon and went that-a-way with the wind. A list of 37 has been reconstructed but at least ten are missing so we'll soft pedal those remembered. Everyone who set up, operated, logged, and dismantled had a good time. The whip snapper left no one permanently marked and considerable improvement in score, compared to past years, was recorded. Fred, K6YT, will have all the data at the meeting where some individual performances will be mentioned.

Work parties spent much of the three weekends prior to FD putting up antennas—the usual 10, 15 and 20 meter beams and assorted inverted VEEs. The most spectacular array was the 40 meter delta loop and reflector on 55 foot poles.

No one went hungry because of the ample supply of stew, spaghetti and lasagna, salad, french bread—and doughnuts, big, tender and filling. The coffee pot was on from before noon Saturday until the generator was shut down about 1:15 p.m. Sunday.

Final cleanup was completed July 1 and 2 with the grounds left neat and clean, if not trampled. Our thanks to Carl and Shirley Schoof for the use of their site.

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ELECTRIC CORNER: The much publicized and long-planned and worked-on generator trailer is complete. Shown at the June meeting nearly completed, the generator stood up under FD use in its usual manner, purring along contentedly for the 24 hours with only one light dimming episode noticed at the Novice Corner. It is a beautiful job that those involved in its building can be rightfully proud.

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REPAIR CORNER: Now that the generator trailer is finished, the rusting wreck at SRI International has to be tackled. Suggestions are invited. Work is to be started soon and it is likely suggestions will come some time after repairs are completed. Bring out those ideas now! Make it easy for those who do the work.

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FIVE YEAR CORNER: Five years ago PAARagraphs had 20 high-quality pages! The last issue in one of the old formats: Andy, VE3FZK, and Wayne, W6URH, gave a talk on amateur color TV; Field Day results were published; a 2-meter antenna project, half illegible and the other half upside down; a feature article on CB-TVI filled the pages. Many names and call letters were included in FD activities, most of whom are still active in the club and some that have splintered to make other clubs successful. Lee, WB6BJB was the editor.

TEN YEAR CORNER: Your editor hasn't found the July, 1968 issue yet. He hopes to get a complete set, from somewhere, of at least the past 10 or 15 years of PAARagraphs. Anyone with a mouldy set, or scattered issues: please get them to Bob, W6BFH, who will see that the editor gets them for binding.

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NOVICE CORNER: Swede Swenson, KA6BEU, made his first amateur contact at FD when he took over the station after Paul, WA6IJP, had gone strong for 14 hours before collapsing. If perserverance is an indication, Swede will make many contacts in a hurry with Dave's, WB6JFH, loanable DX-100.

TECHNICIAN CORNER: No news from the Techs.

GENERAL CORNER: No new Generals? No Latin American country our club.

ADVANCED CORNER: News of Generals that graduate to Advanced is worthy of publication. Anyone climbing the ladder to Extra Class and reaching this point should be identified to club members.

EXTRA CORNER: Nothing Extra this month. C'mon gang—who can get the newest of the new call signs?

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LAMENTING a Long Lost Flea Marketeer: I'm sure you've all noticed his distinctive absence. Year after year he would show up at the EMARC, SPARK, and of course PAARA flea market/auction. Usually we'd find him about 5/6th into the affair, when all the goodies (Harvey-Wells xmtrs, D-104 mikes, T-power fm rigs, etc.) were gone and desperate auctioneers were unloading items at 3¢ a pound to unsuspecting grammar school kids. Then he would swoop in and buy everything out for a song.

His appearance was well heralded. No one knew quite how that rusted remnant of a 1949 Chevvie ever made it to the parking lot. It had a peculiarly twisted and corroded whip antenna on the rear bumper, and was probably the only auto on the road with a large steam pressure gauge mounted squarely on the roof. Like everything else on the car, the dial was rusted fast. The closest thing to it I've ever seen is the PAARA "trailer" at SRI.

Somehow our lost flea marketeer's visage matched his means of conveyance. I never saw less than three day's growth on his chin; he was often in original issue WW I army boots and pants with suspenders. It's been reported that he once wore a beanie cap complete with a rotating propeller, but I always found him with a bright yellow construction worker's cap and dangling chin straps. Perhaps his propeller ran out of juice.

The poor guy was a sucker for junk. I confess conspiring to unload thirty pounds of radar receivers and burned-out transformers on him by hinting out loud that all this stuff "had to go at bargain prices" to a fellow conspirer. Of course, this was well within earshot of Yellow-Dome: he instantly snapped it up. But I felt much less guilty when I offered to haul his new possessions to his "car" and found the steam-gauge equipped relic already jammed with even more battered surplus dross.

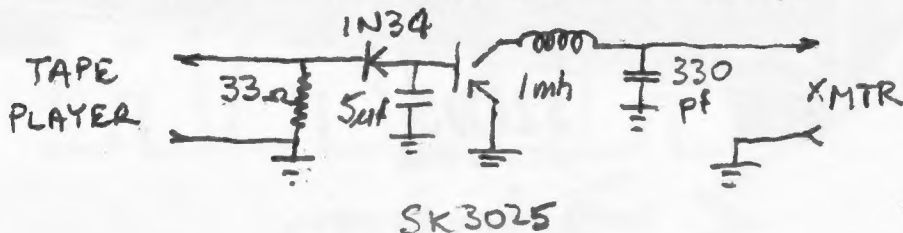
Once I dared venture a question to the man, asking what in heaven's name all that stuff was for. I almost didn't recover from the answer: "It's for my jet-powered blimp," he exclaimed, "—say, do you know where I can get cheap aviation fuel?" I darn near dropped on my foot the BC/ARN-7 monster I was carrying, while I attempted to mutter a "no." Strangely, that was the last time I ever saw him.

Of course, he's probably having the last laugh on us all. Perhaps he scraped all the radioactive luminous paint off those landing beacon receiver dials and decided to make a nuclear power plant for his blimp. (If he listened to the PAARA net, he would have found out the amazing news that a big puffy gonky blimp is no match for the streamlined semi-rigid dirigible, but this guy seemed to want to do things the hard way). Or maybe he did find a source of jet fuel, and is up there zooming around in the stratosphere, communing with higher spirits. To this day I hear a distant chuckle as I make a "bargain" deal on a mint radiosonde to a naive novice ("Hey, kid, you can convert it to 2 meter fm").

Funny, there's that odd jet-engine whoosh again... (Anonymous)

BUILDERS CORNER: Calling a CW station for a scheduled QSO? Arm getting tired? Here is a simple tape playback keyer using a transistor as a switch and a tape recorder as the "memory" pirated from Hints and Kinks a ARRL publication.

It can be made on PC board coated on both sides. Fingernail polish as the etch resist and ferric chloride as the etchant—no problem. 3/64" board slips into the remote-key jack of a hand key!



ONE OF THE KEYERS will be on display at the July 7 meeting and will be one of the raffle prizes. (That's a prize??)

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